

problems. Among the special subjects considered in Chapters 7 to 15 are potassium depletion, management of intestinal obstruction, fluid and electrolyte therapy in infants and children, and problems particularly concerning the surgical specialties. Chapter 16 is concerned with the early treatment of burns; Chapter 17 with blood volume, shock, and the management of blood loss; Chapter 18 with liquid alimentation, and 19 with complications of fluid therapy.

This text, like many texts, suffers from the limitations which briefness requires. For instance, in the limited space it is not possible to be critical of the methods used in studying fluid and electrolyte balance, or to present alternate points of view in problems relating to therapy. For example, the author calculates needs for electrolyte (osmolar) replacement on the bases of extracellular fluid volume, instead of upon the volume of total body water, which is more commonly acceptable. Notwithstanding the differences this reader has with the book, it is one he will want in his own library.

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LECTURES ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE—Volume II, 1952-1953. University of London. The Athlone Press, 1954, distributed in U.S.A. by John de Graff, Inc., 64 West 23rd Street, New York 10. 380 pages, \$6.00.

This volume contains sixteen lectures from a larger series on the scientific basis of medicine sponsored by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. The authors are all experts in their fields and the range of topics is wide. Progress in antibiotics by Sir Alexander Fleming, the functional significance of connective tissue by Robb-Smith, human hæmoglobins by J. C. White and the principles of ganglionic block by W. D. M. Paton are samples which give an idea of the territory covered. The articles are admirably written as the British know how to do so well. There are bibliographies, figures and fine paper and printing. This enterprise is one which could well be copied in this country.

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PRIMER OF ALLERGY—A Guidebook for Those Who Must Find Their Way Through the Mazes of This Strange and Tantalizing State — Fourth Edition. Warren T. Vaughan, M.S., M.D., Richmond, Va. Fourth Edition revised by J. Harvey Black, M.D., Dallas. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1954. 191 pages, \$4.25.

This book can be highly recommended to patients and parents who are confronted and usually puzzled about clinical allergies. Written by the famed pioneering student of the subject, Dr. Warren Vaughan, and recently revised by another highly regarded pioneer in the field, Dr. J. Harvey Black, the volume, now in its fourth edition, is written in a readable and informing manner. The multifaceted information which must be included in the patient's carefully recorded history, the various allergens entering the body through the gastrointestinal and upper respiratory tract; the many allergens with which skin testing is indicated and possible, the negative skin test which is so common in food allergy and less frequent but existent in inhalant allergy, the unfortunate dependence on diets excluding only positive reacting foods, which is largely preventing the recognition of the many manifestations of food allergy today, and the importance of diet trial for the study and control of food allergy are elucidated in varying degrees in the text.

Treatment is discussed without specific directions, which properly are left in the physician's province. The usual multiplicity of inhalant and/or food allergies rather than allergy to a single allergen is noted. Thus the physician's or allergist's challenge is to consider all possible allergies and gradually through continued study and often long cooperation of the patient, as discussed in the text, to determine the major and, if present, secondary causes through the

relief of the patient's symptoms. The obstacles to proper cooperation and the reasons for failure of antiallergic study and control are discussed.

Lay readers are helped greatly by questions and answers at the end of most chapters and at the book's end. Most allergists would modify or change some of this information, making it more specific for food and/or inhalant allergies, especially in directions concerning allergic eczema, allergic headaches, allergic colitis, and gastrointestinal allergy. The listing of foods containing milk and wheat is of help but may give patients the impression that the elimination of single foods usually is effective. The multiplicity of food allergies and the usual necessity of utilizing diet trial accurately and with experience must be appreciated by all. The usual futility of recording practically all diet diaries is insufficiently discussed, since they are usually inaccurate. The physician's time can be better spent in assuring himself that a list of allowed, relatively nonallergic foods, as in standardized elimination diets, is being adhered to and in considering possible allergies to listed foods or to various inhalant and rare infectant allergens when relief fails in a reasonable time.

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A SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—11th Edition. Aleck W. Bourne, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G., Consulting Gynaecologist, St. Mary's Hospital, London; John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, 1954. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore. 536 pages, \$5.00.

This eleventh edition is a synopsis or compend, presenting the subjects in an easily arranged format. While it has been entirely rewritten, it contains much to which American authors give little attention, such as symphysiotomy. In the treatment of eclampsia, the Stroganoff method is first presented. In the management of diabetes mellitus, no mention is made of early delivery to prevent stillbirths. In this complication of pregnancy, cesarean section is not as well accepted as it is in our country.

In the gynecological section, the chapters on carcinoma are well written and the treatment of fibromyomata seems to be most conservative.

The purpose for which this book is intended, that of an outline for preparing examinations, will be served in the country where the book will be most used.

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TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE GYNECOLOGY. Wilfred Shaw, M.A. (Camb.), M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G., Late Surgeon in Charge, Gynecological and Obstetrical Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Examiner, University of London, and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1954. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md. 444 pages, \$19.00.

The author of this outstanding contribution to surgical gynecology, Mr. Wilfred Shaw, was a versatile and sound gynecologist, as well as an erudite and gracious teacher, who attracted students from all parts of the world. He contributed extensively to the medical literature but, for many years, resisted the urging of his friends to set down his surgical experience in book form until an inexorable reminder of life's limit convinced him that his time was running out. He withdrew from practice and spent his remaining days creating an operative gynecology, which ranks with the best yet published. It is a fitting memorial to a great gynecologist, for Shaw died before the book came off the press.

Shaw's Operative Gynecology crowds a tremendous amount of information onto 444 pages without sacrifice of necessary details. Shaw describes technique in a vivid conversational style, easy to read and easy to remember. He is

never stuffy or rigidly academic. Reading the 29 chapters painstakingly, and perusing at the same time the many excellent illustrations depicting successive steps of operations, is as rewarding as any postgraduate course in gynecology. The author did not intend his text to serve only as a picture book for the avid collector of medical books but as a well documented teaching text. His recommendations, concerning certain operative procedures in preference to others, rest on sound footing. A valuable list of references, culled from the world's medical literature, is appended to each chapter. It would be futile to attempt a detailed critique of this fine text. Suffice it to say that every useful gynecologic operation is described in lucid detail. In addition, pre- and postoperative care, surgical accidents and how to cope with them and, above all, indications have received adequate attention.

There are 380 beautifully executed illustrations in this text. In part, they were redrawn from European and American textbooks. Others were created specifically by the well-known medical illustrator Leslie Caswell in cooperation with Mr. Shaw. There are few textbooks which can rival their visual value. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., of Edinburgh and London deserve much credit for having made it possible to complete Shaw's last great effort to contribute to sound operative gynecology. The book is printed in large type and bound for hard wear. It is being distributed by Williams and Wilkins of Baltimore, Md.

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BABCOCK'S PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY—2nd Ed. Edited by Karl C. Jonas, B.S., M.D., M.S. (Surg.), F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., Department of Surgery, Temple University School of Medicine. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1954. 1,543 pages, 1,006 illustrations, and ten colored plates, \$18.00.

This new edition of Babcock's Principles and Practice of Surgery, edited by Karl C. Jonas, an associate of Dr. Babcock, is the second edition and is truly modern with an excellent chapter on cardiovascular surgery and peripheral vascular system, and operations on the blood vessels that bring the reader, whether student or practitioner, up-to-date.

The chapter on the thyroid gland, pituitary and adrenal glands is also well done. There is a chapter on pediatric surgery that is also brilliant. All in all, the reviewer considers this one of the most up-to-date textbooks in surgery that has been published and can recommend it, especially as its illustrations are beautifully executed.

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CANCER: RACE AND GEOGRAPHY—Some Etiological, Environmental, Ethnological, Epidemiological, and Statistical Aspects in Caucasoids, Mongoloids, Negroids, and Mexicans. Paul E. Steiner, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pathology, the University of Chicago. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1954. 364 pages, \$5.00.

This monograph is chiefly concerned with the etiological implications of racial and geographical differences in cancer. It deals primarily with the twenty most common lethal types of tumor as seen in Caucasoids, Negroids, and Mongoloids in necropsies at the Los Angeles County Hospital, as well as in those racial groups in other parts of the world. It represents an attempt to shed new light on the etiology of human cancer by statistical methods. A secondary objective is to present a statistical analysis of all cancers found in a large series of necropsies.

The more that "racial" cancers are studied, the greater is the tendency for them to vanish as such. What appears at first to be racial in the genetical sense tends upon further examination to be racial only in the cultural or special environmental sense. The resistance of the Jew to cancer of the penis represents not inherent immunity of the cells

but is consequent to the cultural custom of early circumcision. The Negro has a low frequency of cutaneous carcinoma not because his cells are nonsusceptible but because they are shielded by melanin from the commonest carcinogen; the albino Negro suffers severely from solar radiation and develops cancer superimposed upon actinic dermatitis.

Following an introduction in which the above topics are mentioned, there is a long chapter dealing with "sources, materials, racial compositions, age, sex, methods, and comparisons with sedentes." Then follow chapters dealing with specific organ cancers such as stomach, colon and so forth, and finally chapters dealing with geographic and ethnic summations.

The author concludes that in general, the numerous racial differences in cancer tend to indicate environmental rather than hereditary factors in etiology. The geographical differences also tend to indicate an environmental predominance.

The material on which the author bases his conclusions is of course not necessarily a representative sample of human cancer. On the other hand, the author's wide professional travels and connections warrant his acceptance as a pathologist of national standing in this important field.

The book is well printed and considering the large amount of material compressed within its 364 pages is quite modestly priced. Students of the cancer problem will find it of considerable interest.

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THE ROLE OF THE PITUITARY IN CANCER—The Clinical Value of Pituitary Lipid Treatment. Henry K. Wachtel, M.D., Scientific Director of the Chemical Hormone Corporation, New York. The William-Frederick Press, 313 West 35th Street, New York 1, N. Y., 1954. 31 pages, \$2.00.

The author advocates the use of a pituitary lipid extract (for which he has a registered trade name) in the treatment of cancer. He records some clinical observations made with the use of this material in seven patients. None are accompanied by photomicrographs, roentgenograms or other objective data to substantiate the recorded impressions. None are accompanied by detailed autopsy protocols to show that neoplasm was absent or was specifically controlled at the time of exitus.

As is customary in the case of unproven methods for the treatment of cancer, the author states that the cases he treated were "regarded as lost and at the end of the rope." He does not reveal any evidence to show that distilled water or normal saline given under identical circumstances might not have produced identical results in most of the cases.

In his concluding remarks he observes that the drug "was not yet used in cancer cases for which surgery or radiation offered promise of success." This reviewer regards it as somewhat unfortunate that the author has chosen to include the words "not yet" instead of the words "not and never will be."

This small monograph and its contents cannot be recommended to any serious workers in the field of human cancer.

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LET'S EAT RIGHT TO KEEP FIT. Adelle Davis, A.B., M.S., Consulting Nutritionist. Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1954. 322 pages, \$3.00.

The author has assembled all of the important statements concerning nutrition from the biochemical and experimental point of view, and some of the problematical ones. These are dispersed throughout the text as the factual information upon which some rather fanciful interpretations are embroidered. At times the writing is clear and lucid—at other times it is confusing, possibly because of the author's attempt to reach the lay public. The volume misses the mark